

Durham County Animal Control Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes November 18, 2008

In Attendance: Amanda Arrington, Martha Ann Traylor, Marie Inserra, Joyce McKinney, Becky Heron, Evelyn Nicholson, Shafonda Price, Beth Livingston, Simon Woodrup. There were 6 guests from the community in attendance.

Amanda Arrington presiding.

Minutes from the September 23, meeting were reviewed and approved with one change – Heron changed from Herron.

Animal Control Update:

- Animal Control addressed 1830 calls in the month of October, traveling an average of 500-700 miles per day.
- Bite calls have increased, cause unidentified.
- A sample of the anti-tethering education flier was presented to the committee.
 - The flier was distributed to 1300 households in Durham County with solid waste bills.
 - The flier has been designated as the first of ten to be distributed.
 - Dissemination within the city is being planned.
- The new Animal Control building is scheduled to open February 20, 2009.

Shelter Update:

- Intake/outcome statistics were reviewed.
 - Comment was made that 41% of cats euthanized were considered feral.
- Leah Santelli has been appointed to the position of the Assistant Manager.

Old Business:

- Residents in Durham County must now list their pets as personal property so the county can collect the tax instead of Animal Control.
- Recognized that the Chair position for the ACAC must be voted upon yearly.
 - Motion was made to retain Amanda Arrington as Chair of the ACAC. Motion passed.

New Business:

Topic – How to Reduce the Feral Cat Population

- Discussion on the threat of feral cats to the wildlife population, particularly birds
- Addressed the importance of cooperation between multiple organizations to address the problem. Emphasized that this goal will require a multi-pronged approach.
- Discussed the following items to consider when developing the approach
 - Fact finding – how big is the problem, who is affected, research programs used by organizations in other areas
 - Education – decreasing abandonment, ask individuals not to support these colonies

- Approaching the goal from multiple fronts
 - Take advantage of resources
 - Recognize the public health concerns
- Decided that members of the committee would do individual research and reconvene Jan 27 at 7PM.

Minutes submitted by Joyce McKinney.